

A RESOLUTION to honor and commend Colonel Richard Dawson
on his distinguished career in public service.

WHEREAS, Richard Dawson has compiled an exemplary record of public service in several important positions, most recently as Commissioner of the Department of Safety, and he is highly regarded; and

WHEREAS, Colonel Dawson is a Cocke County farm boy who served bravely in the United States Army, law enforcement and intelligence, prior to becoming a state trooper on December 13, 1956; and

WHEREAS, because of his exceptional ability and record of accomplishment, he was promoted to Sergeant on May 15, 1965, was promoted to Captain on February 1, 1967 was reclassified to Administrative Assistant II on July 1, 1970 and became Lieutenant Colonel on March 1, 1971; and

WHEREAS, Governor Winfield Dunn appointed him to serve as Director of the Tennessee Bureau of Investigation; and

WHEREAS, Colonel Dawson served expertly as head of the state Highway Patrol from 1973-1979; and

WHEREAS, he brought law enforcement training to the forefront for the Tennessee Highway Patrol and for local law enforcement agencies in Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, after his retirement from the Highway Patrol, he became the Sumner County Sheriff's Department Chief Deputy and later became a safety consultant for Oman Construction Company; and

WHEREAS, Governor Ned McWherter appointed him Commissioner of the Department of Safety on November 1, 1994 and he served admirably in that position for the remainder of his administration; and

WHEREAS, Richard Dawson is widely recognized as the pioneer that brought professional law enforcement to Tennessee and is known, recognized and referred to as "The Dean of Law Enforcement in Tennessee"; and

WHEREAS, the "Colonel" has always been known as a police officer's friend and is legendary for personally assisting other officers in the performance of their duties during difficult times. It was a normal occurrence for him to assist a trooper or a local law patrol officer in traffic or crowd control when he came upon a fellow officer that needed assistance, even after he became Colonel and Commissioner; and

WHEREAS, he helped many citizens and fellow law enforcement officers during their careers and these unselfish acts have gained him respect from people across the nation and around the world; and

WHEREAS, he has also contributed his time and intelligence as a beloved member of the Masons and the Veterans of Foreign Wars, as a valued official with the Tennessee Road Builders Association Safety Committee and has for many years been recognized as the pathfinder in industry in Tennessee and the southeast United States, setting the standard for safety and security in the area of road building, the construction industry and trucking; and

WHEREAS, Colonel Dawson is married to Hedi Dawson and they have one son Larry, who is retiring as a Major in the United States Army and has been accepted to Auburn School of Veterinary Medicine; and

WHEREAS, it is appropriate that we pause to honor Richard Dawson on his tremendous contribution to Tennessee law enforcement and public safety; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE NINETY-NINTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, That we honor and commend Colonel Richard Dawson and express our deep appreciation to him for his public service.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That appropriate copies of this resolution be prepared for presentation, with this final clause omitted from such copies.